

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 276
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Reverend
Sherman L. Helton, Sr. on his 25th year as
Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in specially recognizing those ministers who have, for many years, had a profound and positive impact on so many lives; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman L. Helton, Sr. of Memphis is one such worthy individual, having devoted the past 25 years of his life to serving God and the New Hope Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Hamilton High School, Reverend Helton continued his quest for knowledge, attending Tennessee State University, Mid-South Bible College, the International Seminary, and the Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, one of our nation's great patriots, Reverend Helton also served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the United States Army before being called to the ministry at the age of twenty-nine; and

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WHEREAS, New Hope Baptist Church has seen many improvements under his leadership and guidance; Reverend Helton has overseen the construction of a new worship center, the membership has been augmented dramatically from 50 to over 600 members, the number of parish ministries has increased from three to twenty-six, and the church is currently constructing a Family Life Center; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many duties with New Hope Baptist Church, Reverend Helton still finds time to devote to numerous causes and organizations; he is the First Vice President of the North Mississippi State Convention, the Moderator of the Pleasant Hill-Bethlehem District Association, and serves on the faculty of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished musician, Reverend Helton trained choirs for many years prior to entering the ministry; he worked with many well-known gospel artists and was an accompanist on numerous gospel recordings; in addition, he was a part of WDLA's "Star Light Review"; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and personal accomplishments aside, Reverend Helton is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Pamela, and their three children and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, ministers such as Sherman Helton, Sr. provide the citizens of our nation with a strong network of support, especially in these times of great need and suffering; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Helton has proudly built a legacy of caring for humanity and commitment to upholding Christian values and morals, garnering his strength and guidance from the nintieth Psalm and his faith in the Lord; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to him for his many accomplishments and years of hard work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Reverend Sherman Helton, Sr. of New Hope Baptist Church on 25 years as a pastor, teacher, and evangelist, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.